

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
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Hideki KUME	)	
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: July 1, 2003	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
For: OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
Arlington, VA 22202

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 11-232653. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application and shown in the English-language abstract.

b. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2002-15434. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application and shown in the English-language abstract.

c. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 9-21937. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 5 of the specification of the present application and shown in the English-language abstract.

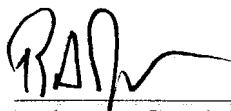
d. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2002-15433. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 5 of the specification of the present application and shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicant further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 1, 2003

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	Applicant Hideki KUME	
	Filing Date July 1, 2003	Group Unassigned

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>
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*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	6,493,309	Dec. 10, 2002	Sogawa, et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation		
						YES	NO	
	11-232653	Aug. 27, 1999	Japan			Abstract		
	2002-15434	Jan. 18, 2002	Japan			Abstract		
	9-21937	Jan. 21, 1997	Japan			Abstract		
	2002-15433	Jan. 18, 2001	Japan			Abstract		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	